



**Special Edition: Recognition of Dr. Quinlisk's Years of Service  
Epi Update for Friday, September 21, 2018  
Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)  
Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)**

Dear EPI Update Readers,

I wanted to let you know that I am (semi-) retiring on Friday, September 21. I will miss working daily with all of you around Iowa - especially with those of you in public health and health care.

My 24 years here at IDPH have been wonderful (despite the mumps, Ebola, pandemic flu, opioid epidemic and all those darn outbreaks of norovirus)!

I plan on continuing to work in my (semi-) retirement, doing special community projects (such as dementia prevention), sitting on advisory boards with CDC, coming back on contract with IDPH, and continuing to teach at universities and other educational entities in Iowa.

Thus, I will still be around, staying active, and hoping to keep in contact with all of you - my treasured friends and colleagues.

Sincerely,

Patricia Quinlisk, MD, MPH, D.Sc. (Hon)  
State Epidemiologist Emeritus – Iowa

**Celebrating Dr. Patricia Quinlisk's Retirement**

Over the past 24 years, Dr. Quinlisk has served as the State Epidemiologist and Medical Director of Iowa, consistently providing expertise and guidance on a wide range of public health issues. Dr. Quinlisk first came to IDPH from Oklahoma, where she was the first woman to hold the position of state epidemiologist. She brought a unique skill set to the role that was informed by experience as a clinical microbiologist, Peace Corps Volunteer in Nepal, preventive medicine physician, and field epidemiologist with CDC.

As a leader in public health, Dr. Quinlisk has had an impact not only on the people of Iowa, but also on the national and global communities. She was a past president of the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists, served on the National Vaccine Advisory Committee and testified before the United States



Congress on bioterrorism. She has been a mentor and teacher for the next generation of public health leaders at several educational institutions both here in the United States as well as abroad.

Although she is retiring, her dedication to public health isn't over. Dr. Quinlisk is still teaching and working on important health issues such as the Save Your Brain campaign. And she will continue to serve as an invaluable resource and trusted colleague for all of us in public health.

Dr. Quinlisk's hard work and dedication has inspired so many, and we look forward to continuing to work with her and others to protect and improve the health of Iowans in the coming years.

Dr. Quinlisk, thank you so much for everything you have done and congratulations on your retirement!

**In the news: Iowa's public-health warrior retiring**

[www.thegazette.com/subject/news/health/iowas-public-health-warrior-retiring-doctor-patricia-quinlisk-state-epidemiologist-iowa-department-of-public-health-20180812](http://www.thegazette.com/subject/news/health/iowas-public-health-warrior-retiring-doctor-patricia-quinlisk-state-epidemiologist-iowa-department-of-public-health-20180812)

**In the news: Iowa's top doctor plans to retire in September**

[www.radioiowa.com/2018/07/16/iowas-top-doctor-plans-to-retire-in-september/](http://www.radioiowa.com/2018/07/16/iowas-top-doctor-plans-to-retire-in-september/)

**In the news: State Epidemiologist Dr. Patricia Quinlisk set to retire**

[www.iowapublicradio.org/post/state-epidemiologist-dr-patricia-quinlisk-set-retire#stream/0](http://www.iowapublicradio.org/post/state-epidemiologist-dr-patricia-quinlisk-set-retire#stream/0)



**Dr. Quinlisk (Center) with IDPH's Center For Acute Disease Epidemiology  
September 2018**



**Have a healthy and happy week!**

Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology

Iowa Department of Public Health

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